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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19700

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1997 • AV 11 5757 • LIBRABIA THANI 1418

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Cabinet approves NIS 164b. budget for '98

By DAVID HARRIS

The government last night approved the state budget for 1998, the inflation rate target, and a blueprint for some 100 structural reforms to the economy.

The cabinet approved a budget of NIS 164.4 billion, including an NIS 2.3b. cut in public expenditures.

Additionally, the ministers approved an inflation target of 7 percent-10%, in line with the Treasury's proposal and against the recommendation of the Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to fix the rate at 6%-9%.

These two measures received the support of nine ministers, but Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli

Yishai, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy voted against, with Interior Minister Eli Suissa abstaining.

It is understood that Science Minister Michael Eitan also abstained.

A few moments into the meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who is calling for a NIS 1.5b. addition to his ministry's budget, walked out leaving a note indicating his dissatisfaction with the budget proposals.

Foreign Minister David Levy also left the meeting without voting. He said he was unhappy that the Treasury still had not put forward its order of priorities for the 1998 budget.

Furthermore, he objected to the cabinet voting on various proposals "en bloc."

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky

also was absent, but for personal reasons.

The cabinet also approved - this time unanimously - the Treasury documents containing some 100 proposals for reforms in the economy, with one exception that will be reexamined by the Treasury.

Before the meeting, Hammer, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman met to discuss the education budget.

Hammer is demanding an additional NIS 330 million, but the Treasury is only offering NIS 130m.

Immediately after the meeting, Netanyahu told reporters that a compromise will be reached in the coming days and that "the long school day will be."

Delighted with the green light given by the ministers, Netanyahu said, "This is an important step on an important day."

However, he warned that while considerable progress has been made in reducing the budget deficit, there is still much work to be done.

He called on ministers and coalition MKs to

all sorts of lobbies and interests against the budget," he said.

Neeman urged coalition members to show the same responsibility as the ministers and said to the public at large with regard to the reforms. "This program will first and foremost bring about the lowering of prices."

Both Neeman and Netanyahu said they are not considering raising taxes "at this stage."

With regard to the defense budget, Netanyahu said he understands the concern of the defense establishment, but said the debate must not be conducted in public.

Faced with the threat of Histadrut action, Netanyahu asked, "Why? Because we're introducing competition which is good for all?"

MKS narrowly approve NIS 800m budget cut, Page 8

support the proposals.

"I have no doubt it will be difficult, there'll be

Ross: We have a beginning

By JAY BUSHINSKY, JON IMMANUEL and Jerusalem Post Staff

US peace envoy Dennis Ross wrapped up his four days of round-the-clock diplomacy yesterday with a CIA-supervised mechanism in

Time will tell if Ross made inroads, Page 2

place to bolster Israel's internal security by preventing terrorist operations from being launched from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We certainly, at this point, have a beginning," Ross said, after his fifth and final meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. He said it "makes it possible to do what is essential - settle the political differences."

Before conferring with Arafat, Ross waited at Ben-Gurion Airport for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to return from his Akaba summit with King Hussein.

He boarded Netanyahu's limousine for the drive to Jerusalem, during which he was briefed on the summit and discussed the countermeasures taken after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing. It was Ross's fifth meeting with Netanyahu.

Before his departure, Ross said he expected some restrictions imposed on the PA to be lifted, but he did not offer a time frame.

The main topic discussed during

the drive was the easing of sanctions, particularly the release of funds, derived from various taxes and revenues, to the PA.

"When the Palestinians refer to sanctions, they mainly mean money," said David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's director of communications.

He denied there was any talk of lifting the closure, contending that this is up to the "security people."

Bar-Ilan said he "didn't see any concrete action" by the PA to stamp out terrorist infrastructures. But he gave Ross credit for having set up the security panel and influencing the PA "to take security seriously."

One of the long-range results of Ross's peacemaking effort will be the projected arrival of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Albright said yesterday that Ross's mission made headway on security issues but "we have to see results" from Arafat.

"What we have to do is see actions, results," she told reporters.

Albright said she would go to the Middle East "in the coming days or weeks," but her decision would be based on reports by her expert advisers.

"We consider it essential that the violence be stopped and everything be done by Chairman Arafat to make sure that the infrastructure of the terrorist groups is dismantled and that he make 100 percent effort in order to make sure that the terrorist activities do not take place," she said.

See ROSS, Page 2

PM to Hussein: Closure vital

Warns of more planned bombings

By JAY BUSHINSKY

AKABA - At a businesslike but cordial summit yesterday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Jordan's King Hussein that the prolonged closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is essential to Israel's internal security.

"We have information about an additional terrorist attack being planned," Netanyahu said at a joint news conference at Hussein's winter palace here.

"Terrorism can put peace into jeopardy," he went on, as the king stood to his left, each with a respective lectern emblazoned with the Jordanian monarchy's seal.

"This is not a political matter," Netanyahu said. "It is a question of lives being at stake." He said he expected the Palestinian Authority to combat terrorism "as promised in the Oslo Accords."

Netanyahu's brief trip to Jordan came exactly one week after his abortive invitation to Hussein to visit him in Jerusalem. The king sent his regrets at the last minute, but authorized Crown Prince Hassan to go in his stead, along with Prime Minister Abdul Majali



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Hussein address a news conference yesterday after meeting in the southern Jordanian port town of Akaba. (Gideon Markowicz)

and Foreign Minister Fayeze Taroneh.

Netanyahu dodged a question about the identity of the two Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombers, but charged that they were given assistance "by locally based organizations." He contended that the party that gave that logistical help "appears to be Hamas."

See PM, Page 2

British hitchhiker slain near Eilat

A man who picked up two British tourists hitchhiking from Eilat turned on them as they took a cigarette break, shooting and killing one and wounding the other.

Soldiers on a military vehicle found the body of Jeffrey Max Hunter, 22, on the side of the road early yesterday.

A woman traveling with him, Charlotte Gibb, 20, was found on the same road with three gunshot wounds, police and hospital officials said. She underwent surgery at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Hospital spokeswoman Batia Kuris said Gibb was in fair condition with gunshot wounds to the jaw, arm, and hand.

Police and the IDF set up roadblocks in the South to search for the killer, based on Gibb's description.

The British consulate in Tel Aviv said Hunter was a law student from Surrey, south of London. It said Gibb, a student from the town

of Peterborough, was not in critical condition.

Police said that the two were hitchhiking north from Eilat late Tuesday night and were picked up at a gas station. Their driver stopped for a rest and suddenly opened fire on them, killing Hunter immediately.

"We were having a cigarette outside the car, like a rest from the journey, and then I just saw lots of flashes and he'd shot us basically," Gibb told reporters.

Hunter's father said Jeffrey had gone to Israel to work on a kibbutz for six months. "Max never felt as though he would be in danger and being in Israel he felt he would be safe," he said, speaking from the family's home in Banstead, Great Britain.

Police said the driver may have fled to Egypt.

The motive for the shooting, the second attack involving young British tourists in Israel in three weeks, was unclear.

Deputy police commander Dudi Cohen told Israel Radio that police were checking all leads, but had little to go on. Gibb told reporters that the driver spoke Hebrew, but that she did not know whether he was an Israeli Jew or Arab.

(News Agencies)



Jeffrey Hunter (AP)

US official: Bombers came from abroad

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

WASHINGTON - All the information now in the hands of the US indicates that the two suicide bombers responsible for the Mahaneh Yehuda attack came from outside the borders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, a senior American official said yesterday.

He added, however, that they were assisted in preparing their bombs and planning the attack by the terrorist infrastructure that exists in the autonomous areas.

This supports PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's contention that the bombers came from outside the areas under his control.

The official did not say where the bombers had come

from, but indicated there is no information that they were Hizbullah members from Lebanon, as has been reported in the press. He also said he is not aware of any indication that they came from Turkey.

The official emphasized that the fact that the terrorists apparently came from abroad does not relieve the PA of its responsibility, as they were aided by a terrorist infrastructure in areas under PA control.

He also said there is a suspicion that those who sent the terrorists are planning other attacks.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian weekly reported that Ahmed Jibril, a leading rejectionist and enemy of Arafat, was behind the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings after recruiting four suspects, who trained in Iran and arrived in Israel via Turkey.

The report in *Shihan* shared one point with a report from the pro-Hamas *Kuds Press* in Nicosia: both said the bombers were recruited in Ein Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon and received help here.

In Dubai, Moussa Abu Marzouk was quoted in a bimonthly magazine called *Israh* as saying that Palestinians should turn the lives of Jewish settlers "into an unbearable hell."

Abu Marzouk, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, was deported from the US to Jordan in May, after Israel decided to drop its request for extradition through a New York court had upheld it.

Abu Marzouk said, "We call on our people in Palestine to stalk the herds of those spiteful settlers and turn their lives into an unbearable hell."

Religious Affairs Ministry publishes siddur without prayer for welfare of state

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Religious Affairs Ministry has published a siddur which does not include the prayer for the welfare of the state and its leaders.

The prayerbook, dated Kislev 5757, also makes the saying of Hallel optional rather than mandatory on Independence Day, according to Meimad, the movement for Religious Zionist renewal. The siddur also leaves out additional prayers said on Independence Day.

According to Meimad spokesman Yisrael Cohen, the siddur was compiled by Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, considered one

of the National Religious Party's spiritual leaders.

Meimad officials said they fear the move, which violates the consensus that has existed in the Religious Zionist camp since the state's establishment, is an expression of an increasing move to the right in parts of that camp, whose members are distancing themselves from Zionism and acceptance of the authority of the state.

Rabbi Kalman Neuman, a member of the Meimad central committee, said he had walked into a synagogue in Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood and found a copy of the siddur there "about a month ago."

"I'm worried that this might be symptomatic of a certain drift towards haredi positions among the Religious Zionist community," he said. "During the Rabin government, there were rabbis who called for not saying the prayer for the welfare of the state, and this might be a continuation of a kind of disenchantment with certain things that are going on in the state, and a kind of downplaying of the religious role of the State of Israel, the place of the State of Israel in religious attitudes."

He added that when a similar situation involving another siddur occurred "about 18 months ago,"

copies still in the ministry's possession had a sticker bearing the prayer for the welfare of the state inserted into them before they were distributed.

A National Religious Party spokesman said that this "was obviously done by mistake, and should be corrected as soon as possible and steps taken so that it does not happen again."

Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Yair Wolf said "nothing had happened," and explained that according to the siddur, based on the customs of Eliahu, the prayer for the welfare of the state is not said. Rather, he said, an expanded version of the prayer for

the well-being of IDF soldiers, which includes portions relating to the state, is said.

Wolf said the traditional version of the prayer for the state is "not sacred" and that it was wrong for Meimad officials to "go looking" for reasons to find fault with Eliahu, whom he said had a special prayer book he uses on Independence Day.

Wolf said the ministry also must meet the religious needs of the haredi public, and that it would be ridiculous to give them prayer books "with a prayer they don't say" and which would cause an even greater outcry if they tore it out.



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Appeals against PA jamming

By DAVID HARRIS

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) appealed yesterday to the High Court of Justice against the government's decision to jam Palestinian Authority radio and television broadcasts.

Poraz argued that the move decided in the wake of the July 30 Mahane Yehuda bombing was illegal and extremely unreasonable.

Knesset Economic Committee Chairman Avi Yezhekel (Labor) said such actions "show Israel to be among the dark nations."

"These broadcasts may be tasteless and contain incitement, but it is of great concern when a government of the right or left becomes involved in jamming," Yezhekel told a special committee session.

The Prime Minister's legal adviser Shimon Stein told the committee that the government hasn't yet carried out any jamming and made the decision only as a possible future option.

Communications Ministry representatives alleged that some Palestinian radio broadcasts contain incitement which could lead to violence.

PA members invited to the meeting did not attend.



Yeshiva students remanded for manslaughter

Two of the four yeshiva students suspected of killing a gas station attendant earlier this week are taken to their remand hearing in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. The four - 22, 18, 15, and 20 - were remanded for two days on suspicion of manslaughter and causing the death of Mohammed Abu Saraa, 73, by negligence.

Arutz 7 suspected of violating law

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arutz 7, the settlers' radio station, is to be investigated for suspected violations of the Second Television and Radio Authority Law and wireless broadcasting regulations, Justice Ministry spokeswoman Eini Eshed announced yesterday.

She said the decision, which followed months of consultations with the attorney-general and the State Attorney's Office, was made some time ago, but announcement was delayed until after Tisha Be'av out of consideration for the public's sensitivities.

The decision, she noted, followed complaints to the police, that the station is broadcasting from areas under Israeli sovereignty and using several frequencies which violate the legal and financial rights of the Second Television and Radio Authority, which paid significant sums for their use.

Arutz 7, Eshed said, has been found to be broadcasting from Judea and Samaria and from inside Israel's territorial waters.

The investigation is part of a general crackdown on pirate radio stations. It is motivated in part by a fear that the continued use by these stations of frequencies designated for aircraft could lead to a disaster. There have already been several near accidents at Ben-Gurion Airport because pirate radio stations were broadcasting on frequencies used by the control tower to communicate with aircraft.

Eshed said that investigations following these incidents have led to the issuance of indictments against some 30 individuals associated with pirate stations in the Lod-Ramle area.

The attorney-general, she said, has also instructed all government offices and agencies to immediately cease all advertising on Arutz 7.

Susskin found fit for trial

Tatyana Suskin was yesterday ruled mentally fit to stand trial for allegedly pasting posters on Hebron storefronts depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

Suskin, 26, spent a week at a mental hospital for tests to assess her state of mind.

"The decision was that she would stand trial after it was ruled there was no need to keep her in the mental hospital," a court official in Jerusalem said.

Suskin, a supporter of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement of the late U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, told reporters in court that she was "crazy in the head like the entire state" of Israel.

"Yes, I think I'm right, literally. I'm from the extreme right. I have no reason to apologize," she said, for the posters she allegedly tacked up on June 27 across 20 storefronts on the Palestinian-ruled

side of Hebron, which provoked an outpouring of Moslem rage and anti-Israeli protests. A leaflet from Muslim extremists even claimed that the Machaneh Yehuda bombing on July 30 which killed 14 Israelis, was in retaliation for the posters.

Suskin is accused of committing a racist act, harming religious sensitivities, supporting a terrorist group and endangering life by stoning an Arab car in a previous incident. She could face a maximum jail sentence of 26 years if convicted.

The Jerusalem District Court meanwhile delayed Suskin's return to prison, pending an appeal filed by her attorney to the Supreme Court against keeping her in jail.



Suskin ruled mentally fit

Labor MKs retract 'beheading' comments

By LIAT COLLINS

The phrase "Off with his head!" echoed around the Knesset plenum yesterday during a debate on a Likud Party motion accusing the opposition of incitement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The discussion was provoked by the comments of two Labor MKs - Ephraim Oshaya and Eitan Cabel - who both used the phrase in a meeting last week to describe what should be done to the prime minister. Cabel also said that Labor should "shoot in all directions." During the discussion yesterday, both MKs apologized for using the phrase and said they had not intended it to be incitement.

"I do not want the assassination of the prime minister," Oshaya said. "But I do want him to be in the opposition." MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) attacked the Likud for its motion on the debate. "Someone who has a doctorate in incitement shouldn't be preaching to us about it," she said. "It was not us who dressed the prime minister in an SS officer's uniform. We weren't the first to arrive after terror attacks and dance on the blood."

She said Netanyahu continued to incite and divide the people.

"Ten measures of hypocrisy were bestowed on the world," she said, "and nine of them were bestowed on the Likud."

Likud whip Meir Sheerit said the Labor Party is finding it difficult to accept that it is in the opposition. Sheerit said the charges against Netanyahu "are the accusations of a frustrated opposition."

The opposition has a duty and a right to criticize the government, Sheerit continued, but it should be pertinent criticism. He called on all MKs to avoid personal attacks.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Tenders Committee Tender 13/97

The Ministry of Industry and Trade ("the purchaser") request/invites bids as follows: The establishment and supply of a computerized information system (programs only) for the Investment Center

- The purchase requests/invites tenders for the establishment, supply and installation of a computerized system for the Investment Center for the administration and management of the Law for the Encouragement of Investment and all its operations performed by the Investment Center.
- The bid submitted and the expedition thereof must be in accordance with the procedures of development at the time of the publishing of documents of the investment center.
- The system will be established at a fixed price in a given time frame, on a turnkey condition, in accordance with the tender bid (the tender). The supplier must give a 12 month guarantee for the system. The system will be developed on the basis of "Oracle" data, and around development - "Developer 2000."
- The bid shall be submitted by a chief contractor who will be obliged to fulfill the following conditions:
 - A legal corporate entity (must send in a copy of the company's registration certificate with the registrar of the companies).
 - Must be a legal business.
 - A software house or a company that is not a software house but develops information which meet the following criteria:
 - The annual turnover for development of information systems must be at least nine million NIS for 1995 (according to the 1995 audited financial statements).
 - In the four years prior to submitting this bid, managed and was responsible for the operating of by itself or as a chief contractor, of at least two computer information systems whose scope was similar or larger than the scope of the future system requested for the Investment Center.
 - The total number of professional workers employed full time by the bidder, involved in the management of the project, its operation and the development of the management information system shall be at least 30.
 - Proven experience of the supplier and workers employed by it, in the development of the system, on the basis of data requested on the basis of client/server.
- The bidder must submit the following documents with his bid:
 - A bank guarantee in favor of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to the value of NIS 500,000 to ensure that the bidder carries out the terms of the tender. The expiry date of the bank guarantee will be 27.1.98 and the terms will comply with the documents of the tender. The purchaser will be entitled to extend the expiry date an additional 3 months as long as no contract has been signed with the winning supplier, and the bidder undertakes to extend the expiry 7 days of being informed that he has been awarded the contract and/or no guarantee is given for performing the contract. Bids submitted without guarantees are invalid.
- Inbal Insurance Company Ltd. acts as an extension of the purchaser as regards development and maintenance of computer information systems. The representative of the purchaser for submitting this tender, who is responsible for all queries is Mrs. Mira Sadeh, manager of information systems, Inbal Insurance Company. Fax: 03-753 3887, Tel.: 03-753 3888/805.
- Tender applications will be coordinated by Mrs. Malcah Schultz until 9.9.97 at 10:00 at tel. 02-622 0428. Application forms can be obtained from the offices of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, 30 Agron, Jerusalem, room 128, upon payment of NIS 750 at the postal bank, in favor of tender no. 13/97. The above amount is not refundable (Bidders who paid for the specification of tender 7/97 are exempt from this payment).
- A meeting of suppliers will be held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, 30 Agron, Jerusalem, 2nd floor, room 231, on 7 Elul 5757 (9.9.97), at 10:00 a.m. Attendance is compulsory for all suppliers wishing to take part in the tender. A protocol of the meeting will be sent to all suppliers requesting a copy, who paid for the tender documents and attended the meeting.
- The bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope stating the tender number (13/97) and placed in the tender mailbox at the head office, 30 Agron, Jerusalem, room 22, no later than 27 Tishrei, 5758 (28.10.97), until 3:00 p.m.
- The purchaser is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender offer, in full or in part.
- An official booklet of tender document rules and regulations states additional conditions regarding this tender in greater detail. In the event of any dispute, the conditions stated in the tender document booklet will be paramount. Any information or acknowledgement by the purchaser or his representative/s will not be binding unless given in writing and signed by the duly appointed officials of the purchase.

This document serves only as a translation of the Hebrew original.

Knesset furor over Arab solidarity with Assad

By LIAT COLLINS

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau accused Labor leader Ehud Barak yesterday in the Knesset of helping the Arab propaganda machine by sending a message to Syrian President Hafez Assad with Israeli-Arabs who visited Damascus.

Landau, of the Likud Party, also accused some delegates of having shown disloyalty to Israel by calling for a "full right of return for Palestinians" to Israel while in Syria. "MK Barak made a big mistake by giving a message to the Syrian president via such a delegation," Landau added. "He is not acting like a leader with a national duty but like an angler fishing around in murky waters."

Deputy defense minister Silvan Shalom, answering for the government, called the delegation "scandalous" and "extremist" and accused them of giving in to the Syrian definition of them as "Arabs from 1948." Although it was added to the agenda only at the last minute, the debate in the special Knesset session on the visit by Arab Israelis to Syria

turned into the main focus of the discussion. Originally the agenda called for discussion of opposition claims that the peace process has collapsed and coalition complaints against Labor for incitement.

Barak justified his step, saying the letter he sent called for a resumption of peace talks. But Labor MKs were critical of some Arab delegates to Syria and issued a statement from a faction meeting alleging that they had "harmed the solidarity that they are obliged to as Israeli citizens."

MK Ephraim Sneh said that the visit had done more harm than good. Third Way whip Yehuda Harel said he was "shocked by the complete solidarity the Israeli Arab delegation showed with Assad, the Syrian Ba'ath regime and the terror organizations there."

The AP adds: Israel's ambassador to Washington warned yesterday that Syria, armed with 600 to 700 missiles, including probably about 150 updated Scuds, is preparing for war even as it declares it is ready for peace talks.

Official suspended for false clocking

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry yesterday suspended the director of its computer branch for allegedly clocking in his boss for hundreds of work hours worth tens of thousands of shekels when she wasn't present.

The ministry spokesman said that Meir Handelsman was asked to resign immediately. When he refused, the director-general, Prof. Gabi Barabash suspended him and threatened to file a complaint to the Civil Service Commission.

Handelsman is suspected of clocking the card for his bureau

chief, Dalia Antebbe, many times when she wasn't on the job, or was even on vacation, over a period of two to four years, the daily Haaretz said.

A complaint was also expected to be filed against Antebbe. Ha'aretz quoted "senior staffers" as claiming that the ministry was trying to cover up the story.

It said that Antebbe received tens of thousands of shekels for the falsely clocked hours, which colleagues in the computer branch allegedly knew about.

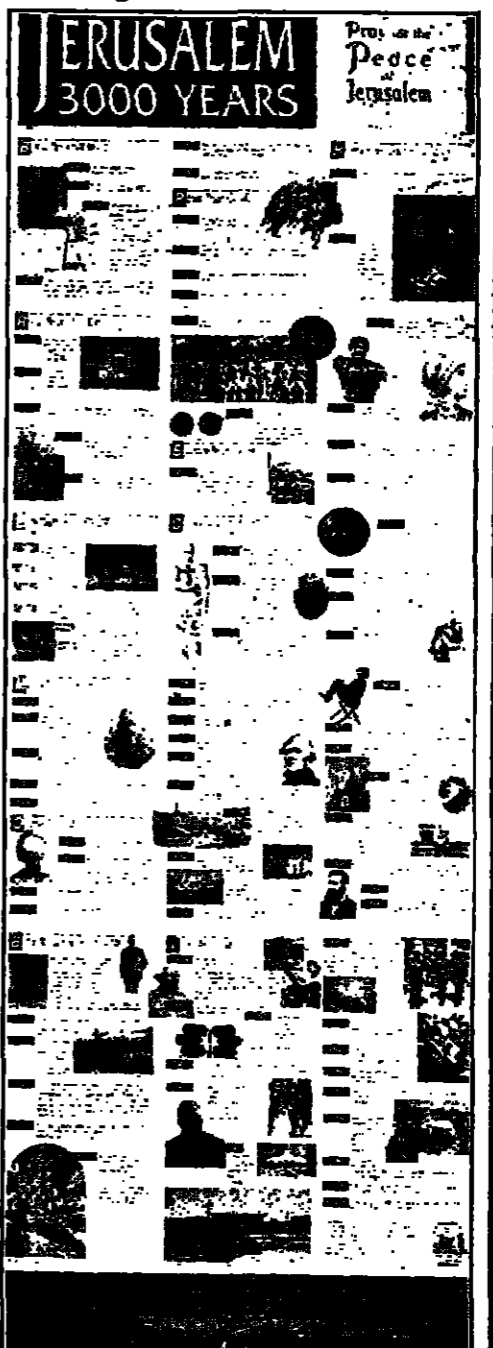
Handelsman refused comment. Antebbe was quoted as denying the charges.

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NEWS

in brief

Five may be charged in Paz case

The police have recommended that attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak, Ram Caspi, Zvi Agmon, and Yehoshua Rosenzweig and Lieberman group chairman Zedek Bino be indicted for obstructing justice, fraud, and frustrating an attachment. Bino may also be charged with perjury. The Lieberman group is suspected of having paid Bogoslav Bagshik and Andrei Gunshurovsky \$96 million for half of Paz, while reporting only \$80 million to the court. An investigation was launched following exposure of the affair in *Globes* last July. *Globes*

Matza, Neeman discuss health system crisis

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and their directors-general met yesterday to continue discussions of ways to find a solution to the budget crisis in the health system. Matza complained of "footdragging" in the Treasury, and argued that any more wasted time would delay the implementation of reforms. The two agreed to speed up the deliberations, with Matza calling for them to be finalized by the end of next week. It was decided to begin discussions of the Health Ministry budget as soon as the framework for the total budget is set. *Judy Siegel*

Antiquities Authority: Some graves survived

The Antiquities Authority said yesterday that some graves from the Roman period have survived a razing by bulldozers paving Highway No. 1 near Pisgat Ze'ev. Jerusalem area archeologist Gideon Avni said that a cessation of work order issued last week when part of the graveyard was destroyed, would stand until the authority notified otherwise in writing. The authority accused Moriah Company bulldozers of deliberately wrecking the site last week by going ahead with digging, despite warnings that artifacts dating to the Second Temple period were detected in the area. *Itim*

Body of missing man found

The body of Reuven Bazov, 73, of Ashdod, who had gone missing on Saturday night, was discovered at a youth farm in the city's industrial area yesterday. Family members said Bazov was senile and would occasionally forget his way home. Police said he died of natural causes. *Itim*

Eitan, EU envoy discuss science cooperation

Science Minister Michael Eitan and EU Ambassador Jean Paul Jesse yesterday discussed increasing scientific cooperation and Israel's joining the fifth research and development program that the EU will open at the end of 1998. The budget of the entire project will be \$20 billion. Commenting on hesitation by some academics and industrialists on the benefits of joining the project, Eitan said that this may be so on the short term, but being a partner in the long term is a strategic decision that will have momentous effects on the local economy, as well as political influence. *Judy Siegel*

High-tech firms to 'adopt' schools

Seven schools have been chosen by the Education Ministry to take part in a special project, starting September 1, in which high-tech companies will "adopt" schools. The idea is for pupils, "especially the girls," to be exposed to the possibilities of future advancement in the world of high technology. The parents will also be integrated into the program, and graduates of high-tech curricula will be eligible for the technical services of the IDF, the ministry said. *Judy Siegel*

Arbel checking prison deal

By BATSHEVA TSUR

State Attorney Edna Arbel is looking into whether the agreement drawn up between the IDF and the prisoners in Military Prison No. 6 last week is binding. OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer, who said immediately after the hostage-taking incident was resolved, that there was no intention of keeping an agreement "which was signed while we had a knife at our throats," yesterday came under strong criticism from the Knesset's State Control Committee for the remark. "You have to keep the agreement, otherwise the credibility of the authorities will suffer severely. This is not a mere legal matter. It is an educational and moral matter of the first degree and it has implications for similar situations in the future," committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) said. "Will you take responsibility?" he asked Sheffer. "I am not here to be interrogated," Sheffer replied, refusing to commit himself. Katz then asked whether the army had signed the agreement with the explicit intention of breaking it. "We know that there are instances when such agreements [made under duress] have not been upheld, but this was not our intention when we signed," replied Col. Yossi Teiraz, deputy judge advocate-general. He said that the IDF's legal authorities have been in touch with the state attorney over the matter. "The overriding consideration was to save lives," he said. Aviezer Ya'ari, deputy director-general of the State



Martin Givon, an alleged ringleader of the rioting at Military Prison No. 6, appears in Jaffa Military Court yesterday. (Dana Shtam/Israel Sam)

Comptroller's Office, said that the comptroller's investigation into military prisons had revealed a "sad state of affairs." He said that there is overcrowding and that "in a considerable percentage of cases," soldiers are detained far too long before being remanded. The IDF is trying to reach a situation in which remand hearings will be held within 48 hours, the officers replied. OC Military Police Brig.-Gen.

Niram Goldbroom said that 27,000 soldiers were detained every year - 74 percent of them for disciplinary offenses. He added that the jails are currently undergoing extensive refurbishment to bring them up to the standards of modern prisons. The Military Police also did not come up with a clean record in the eyes of the comptroller. Ya'ari noted, noting that many complaints had been found to be justified.

Pelephone, Cellcom introduce new cell phone packages

By JUDY SIEGEL

If you're in the market for a cellular phone and are not confused enough by the various offers, consider Cellcom's new "Talkman" program - introduced 24 hours after Pelephone came out with its "Talk Mango" offer. Cellcom vice president for marketing, Oren Most, charged Pelephone with "stealing" the name of Cellcom's offer after Cellcom unveiled it before its own agents on Sunday. In fact,

Pelephone issued its announcement of Talk Mango in a one-page fax to reporters on Sunday morning, while Cellcom informed reporters yesterday with printed package covers and full-color booklets delivered by messenger. Talkman is an innovation based on one aspect of the Mango: one does not pay monthly service fees, but pays only for those calls made over the cellular phone. But it is nevertheless very different, Most said. One buys a Nokia 2120 plus phone for NIS 1,099 or an Ericsson DH 318 for NIS 699. Then you can call anywhere by "filling" the phone electronically with a pre-paid Talkman card (sold at Cellcom outlets in NIS 50, NIS 100 or NIS 200 denominations). For initial use, merely scratch the card to find a code number, which is entered into the phone, and you can make as many calls as you want until the money runs out. If the phone "empties" and a new card code is not keyed in for 60 days, no incoming or outgoing calls will be allowed, except for calls to emergency numbers. Meanwhile, Pelephone - which invented the Mango (a simple phone with no monthly phone charges; instead calls are billed to your home or office phone via a Bezeqcard) - has introduced Talk Mango. One buys the Mango for only NIS 399, including VAT, and get an immediate Pelephone line with a 50% discount on Bezeqcard rates, but only through November 15.

Claims Conference, Germany to discuss compensation

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

The Claims Conference and German officials will resume talks next week in Bonn on expanding compensation for Holocaust survivors and, for the first time, a representative of Eastern European Jewry is expected to take part. Alexander Bergmann, of Riga, spokesman for the former ghetto and camp prisoners of Latvia, will represent the Eastern Europeans in the delegation from the Claims Conference, sources said. Bergmann's place at the table is expected to elevate the priority given to Eastern European survivors, who have not received compensation from Bonn. It also would mollify Eastern Europeans who have complained that they have not been represented in the Claims Conference. Germany has paid more than DM 100 billion to survivors in the West, but those in the Soviet bloc have been ineligible for direct reparations. In the last 18 months, there has been increasing pressure on the German government to extend compensation to them, especially in light of harsh publicity about non-German veterans of the Waffen SS, and possibly war criminals, receiving pensions. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman said the government hopes the two-day round of talks, starting Tuesday, will accelerate progress. "The federal government aims to complete these talks soon after summer break and then initiate the necessary decisions," spokesman Herbert Schmuelling said. "If we talk about this another two years, most of the survivors will have died," the head of Germany's Jewish community, Ignatz Bubis, said in an interview published in yesterday's editions of Berlin's *Der Tagesspiegel*. Estimates of the number of Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe range from 15,000 to 40,000. In Latvia, for example, there are 84 survivors; five years ago, there were 182. In the Bundestag, members of the Greens Party have repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, pressed for legislation to compensate the survivors in the east. Eighty-three members of the US Congress recently appealed to Kohl to find a solution to "this last, forgotten group of Holocaust survivors," and the American Jewish Committee has run advertisements in major American newspapers assailing Germany's failure to compensate survivors in the east. Next week's negotiating teams will be led by Kohl's chief of staff, Friedrich Bohl, and Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, which is one of the two dozen members of the Claims Conference.

Casino agent accused of hiding income

Yosef Raz, an agent who took gamblers to casinos in Turkey, was released on more than NIS 2 million bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, after being accused of failing to report millions of shekels in income over a three-year period. Chief Inspector Baruch Yitzhaki, of the income tax authority, said that checks amounting to more than NIS 20m. were deposited in Raz's former wife's account between 1993 and 1996. Raz's attorney, Uri Itam, said his client would have trouble coming up with the bond money. Yitzhaki replied that the authorities have found that Raz owns a large home in Mazkeret Bata, while his former wife owns two luxury automobiles. Judge George Kara said it seemed the suspect "isn't quite as destitute as his attorney would have it." Kara also alleged that Raz and Itam had given conflicting accounts of where the money came from. Raz claimed that the money was paid by gamblers to cover the costs of their excursions to casinos in Turkey, while his attorney said it belonged to Raz's dead brother. (Itim)

Yishai: I won't approve permits for more foreign workers

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said yesterday he would not approve more permits for foreign construction workers because the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was temporary. Yishai spoke before the Knesset Labor Committee after defense and welfare officials argued strongly against requests from the Housing Ministry and contractors to permit them to import more laborers. "The closure is temporary," Yishai said. "I will not approve bringing in more foreign workers for the construction industry, because in the long term this will cause greater damage to Israel." Yishai also accused contractors of not employing enough Israelis. Col. Dov Tzauke, who is responsible for coordination and communication at the Erez checkpoint, told the committee it was better to hire Palestinians than foreign workers. "It is preferable to have a Palestinian neighbor nearby who is satisfied than a Filipino who lives far away," Tzadke said. He asserted that if more Palestinians were working, there would be less unrest in the West Bank and Gaza and fewer threats to Israel. "When the financial situation in the areas under the Palestinian Authority's control improves, the PA will not be able to recruit the masses to act against Israel. You saw in the past few days how easy it is for the PA to organize giant protests when a closure is imposed," Tzadke said. Housing officials said the two-week old closure had created serious problems for builders. Contractors alleged that the government hadn't carried out promises to administer permits for 74,000 more foreign construction workers. (Itim)

Ports and Railways Authority (PRA) Head Office Tender Committee - Construction Department Public Tender no. 13/0314/025/97

Pursuant to the agreement on government procurement (GATT agreement), and in accordance with the tender laws of the State of Israel; The Tender is limited to suppliers from countries which entered the agreement on government procurement.

- The Ports and Railways Authority hereby requests submission of offers for: **Quarrying, Transport, and stockpiling of stone for the Ashdod Port.** The work includes: **Quarrying, transport and stockpiling of stone for the construction of breakwaters at the Ashdod Port.** The quantity of stone required is 750,000 tons, of various sizes, which will be stockpiled on areas which have been prepared in advance within the port's boundaries. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the PRA is entitled to increase or decrease the quantity of stone up to 33%. **Duration of the work: Approximately 19 months.**
- Tender participation is subject to the following conditions:
 - A supply of all required approvals according to Public Body Transaction law (enforcement of book-keeping and tax payment) 1976.
 - 1) The supplier must prove experience accumulated over the past 10 (ten) years (1986-1996) in the quarrying of an inclusive quantity of at least 500,000 tons of stone in the sizes required by this tender.
 - 2) The supplier must demonstrate proven experience in the transport of stone of the sizes required by the tender documentation and must demonstrate the potential ability to furnish the required stone specified in the tender documents.
 - 3) In order to prove his experience, the supplier will present the appropriate documents (such as: copies of contracts similar to the contract subject of this tender) and proof that he fulfilled these contracts (such as confirmation by an accountant as to their veracity).
- 1) Proof of ownership and/or conditional agreements with the active quarry owners whose licenses are valid and who have the appropriate stone required by this tender, and with the appropriate transporters who will fulfill the conditions of the tender. Active quarry owners and transport companies may contract with more than one supplier. 2) The agreements must be such as to enable the supplier to fulfill tender requirements.
- Participation in explanatory meetings which will take place on 26/8/1997 at Hall No. 2, Administration Building, Port of Ashdod.
- A Bank Guarantee for the offer, in the amount of 10% of the amount of the offer, not including VAT. The amount of the guarantee will be linked to the Israeli Consumer Price Index, General Index, which is known as of the last date for the submission of the offer and valid for a period of 180 days from the last day of the submission of the bid. The bidders should be aware that failure to supply the required bank guarantee in the sealed envelope containing the offer will disqualify the offer of the supplier.

3. The PRA shall enter into an agreement with a supplier which is a single entity which itself meets the requirements as set out in the Tender Documentation OR the PRA shall enter into an agreement which such a supplier which has entered into binding agreements with other entities as "sub-suppliers" of that single entity, which demonstrates that the sub-suppliers, by themselves and/or with another supplier, have met the requirements set out in the Tender Documentation. It is specifically noted that sub-suppliers may enter into conditional agreements with more than one potential supplier for the purposes of the Tender.

4. The tender documents may be obtained at the construction department at the head office, 74 Petah Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, 12th floor, room 1221, beginning from 20/8/1997, against payment of NIS 10,000 plus VAT (non-refundable). Additional details can be obtained by telephone: 03-565 7018.

5. Suppliers interested in participating in the tender will submit their written offer, in Hebrew, including all required documents in a sealed envelope not later than 29/9/1997 at 2:00 p.m., to the tender box at the head office, 74 Petah Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, 6th floor.

6. A detailed and governing tender notice can be obtained by request from Ms. Noa Kartiv, tel. 03-565 7018, or by fax: 03-561 6541.

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China president previews summit with Clinton

BEIJING (Reuters) — China's President Jiang Zemin expects his upcoming summit with President Clinton next month to herald healthy cross-Pacific ties into the 21st century, state media said yesterday.

"We should ascend the heights and be farsighted, and proceed from a strategic level in mastering the general situation of relations between the two countries," Jiang was quoted as telling US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger in a meeting Tuesday.

"We should strive to expand common ground, enhance trust, diminish differences, and join hands to create the future," Jiang said in the talks at the seaside resort of Beidaihe, where China's leaders are gathered to set policy before a crucial Communist Party congress.

Berger was to leave yesterday, after four days in China laying the groundwork for Jiang's state visit to the US in late October that is seen as setting the seal on a recent warming in long-fraught Sino-US ties.

Referring to the summit, Jiang said: "I expect to discuss significant issues about developing Sino-US relations with President Clinton and join hands with him to bring a long-term, stable, and healthy relationship of cooperation to the 21st century."

Diplomats say Jiang wants to avoid any hiccups in troubled ties before the visit that he sees as crowning his foreign policy.

China and the US have squabbled over a range of issues in the past two years, including Beijing's

rival Taipei, human rights abuses, trade, and nuclear proliferation, but ties have warmed substantially in recent months.

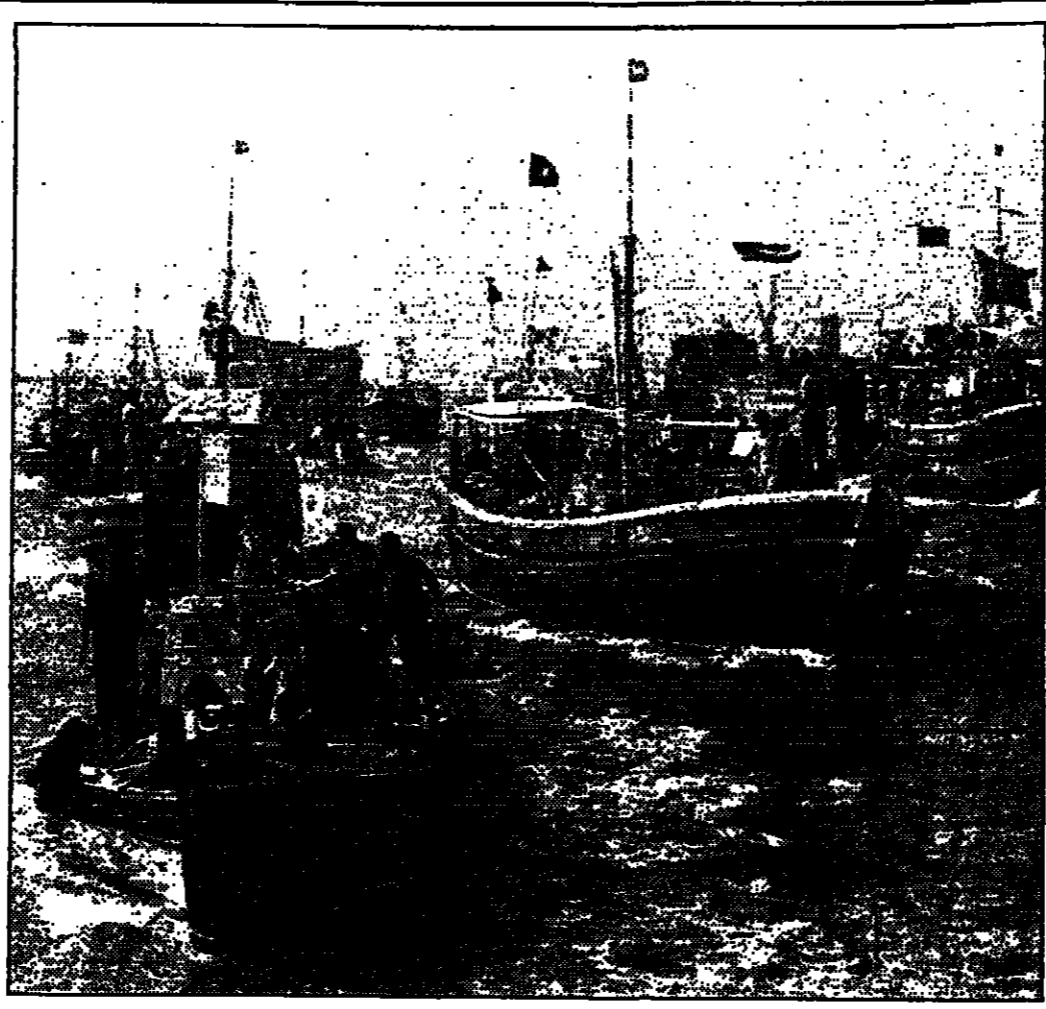
Such summits were the best way to narrow such differences, the Xinhua news agency quoted Jiang as saying. He said the two sides should regard differences as natural between nations with such differing social systems, ideologies, and levels of development, and urged more communication to sort out disagreements.

"In doing so, direct, face-to-face dialogues and exchanges between the two countries' leaders are especially important," Jiang said.

"These contacts cannot be replaced by any other modern means of communication."

Jiang told Berger that his meeting with Clinton at an Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) forum last November in Manila had marked a hard-won turning point in ties. "This situation is the result of joint efforts made by the two sides. It has been painstakingly achieved and should be treasured," Jiang said.

Jiang's meeting with Clinton will be the first state visit to the US by a Chinese president since the Chinese army crushed student-led pro-democracy demonstrations centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 3-4, 1989. US officials have declined to give details of Berger's talks, but said in Washington that the main goal of his trip was to discuss preparations for Jiang's state visit.



50 years of independence
Pakistani fisherman on their boats in Karachi port yesterday, on the eve of Pakistan's 50th Independence Day. Some 50 boats took part in the rally.

Ex-chief bodyguard's memoirs take aim at Yeltsin

By VANORA BENNETT

MOSCOW (Los Angeles Times) — If revenge is a dish best eaten cold, then Alexander Kozhakov, the hard-liner President Boris Yeltsin sacked as his chief bodyguard last summer, is hoping for a feast this week.

The former KGB general published a book of memoirs yesterday about his 11 years as Yeltsin's most faithful servant. Extracts published in the Russian media portray Yeltsin as an alcoholic lord of misrule, and his reign as a confused turch from one vodka-soaked crisis to the next.

"I think the public should know about the people who rule them," said the smirking, round-faced Kozhakov at a Tuesday media launch for the 500-page work, *Boris Yeltsin: From Dawn to Sunset*.

Once feared as the most powerful man in Russia after Yeltsin, Kozhakov now openly wishes the president ill. Kozhakov knows more Kremlin secrets than most and, as a member of parliament, also has immunity from prosecution.

Whether his book will have the sensational impact he apparently wants, on a people bored by public squabbling and scandalomongering among politicians for whom they have scant respect anyway, remains to be seen.

Earlier attempts to punish the president for humiliating him have gone nowhere. Last spring, Kozhakov sued Yeltsin for slander, but lost his case. He subsequently alleged, in an interview with the British newspaper *The Guardian*, that Yeltsin had twice tried to kill himself.

Yeltsin denied it.

On Tuesday, Kozhakov was evasive about whether he had written this book as an act of revenge, saying he needed to earn money because his pension payments have stopped.

He was more explicit about threats he said have come his way from the president's immediate circle. Yeltsin's family and current aides offered him \$5 million not to publish the book, he alleged, and he said Yeltsin himself had ordered the head of the secret police, Nikolai Kovalov, to stop publication.

Yeltsin's press officials could not be reached to comment on those allegations, but Natalia Konstantinova, who until recently was a spokeswoman for the president's wife and daughter, said she doubted the Yeltsin family would personally have tried to buy off Kozhakov.

"Perhaps some people would like to sue me," Kozhakov said Tuesday. "But I promise that any such trial would not be closed, and that I would say everything I want to openly."

The advance excerpts of Kozhakov's book, which will have a print run of 150,000, do shed some light on some of Yeltsin's quirkier behavior. For example, he recounts the president's notorious 1994 failure to leave his plane at Ireland's Shannon Airport to meet the Irish prime minister, but says the episode was not, as was widely suspected at the time, the result of too much drinking. Rather, according to Kozhakov, Yeltsin passed out in the plane with a suspected heart attack.

Mostly, however, the book is court scuttlebutt: Servants being ordered by the president to ignore doctors' orders and buy him vodka; Kozhakov diluting the vodka with water; or Yeltsin embarrassing his companions by guzzling vast quantities of wine at state banquets.

During an August 1994 state visit to Germany, the book says, an already drunk Yeltsin had lunch with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and "drank so much red wine that the German waiter could hardly keep up."

He talked absolute nonsense and gesticulated wildly, while I sat opposite him dying of shame," Kozhakov wrote in an excerpt quoted by London's *Sunday Times*.

The first public reactions have been scornful. "After reading this text, you want to wash your hands or even take a shower," said the irreverent monthly *Top Secret*, one of three Russian publications to gain access to parts of the book before publication.

"What doesn't fit here is the author's endless outpourings of self-glorification, his insistence that he is a Russian patriot who thinks day and night about the fate of his country... A Russian patriot shouldn't say all these disgusting things about the leader of the state."

Column One

The beacon shining in the Balkan gloom

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Albanians — the Balkans, seething with gun-backed hatreds. If they all won exactly what they want, said the journalist P.J. O'Rourke, "at the end of the day they would still have nothing but Yugoslavia."

Not quite all. There were some good guys in the Balkan swamplands. They got Slovenia.

Good girls go to heaven — bad girls go everywhere. Slovenia has been quietly building a heavenly little haven in its corner of the former Yugoslavia and getting very little credit for it. The others have been tearing one another apart and getting all the headlines, peacekeepers, and reconstruction plans.

True, they also have been earning international contempt. By the same token, Slovenia should have won much international love. Instead, good news is no news, and Slovenia is one of those places most foreigners can't quite place — and if they do, they probably call it Slovakia.

Slovenes have lived in their present territory for at least 1,400 years. The cozy little capital of Ljubljana was founded, in legend, by the Argonauts 35 centuries ago. Even so, today the people number less than two million. Including emigrants would raise that to less than 2.5 million.

Outgunned
It is high time this beautiful, ethnically and religiously calm little country got from its European neighbors the credit — and rewards — it deserves. Slovenia is a tourist paradise where few tourists go because of its unfair proximity to its warring neighbors. Along the 40 km. of Adriatic coast, fishing villages slumber. North of them the Julian Alps brood under snowy brows. In the east, lazy farms meander down to the Hungarian flatlands.

Slovenia broke away from the crumbling federation to its south in 1991. Though badly outgunned and outnumbered, it defeated the Yugoslav People's Army in a brief war with few casualties, and established a tranquil and evolving democracy. It has the only successful economy in that cursed region, and its citizens enjoy a respectable per capita income of around \$10,000 — not bad for a small former province of a poor Communist state. For rank opposites — doing it right, and doing it wrong — there is no better comparison than Slovenia and Albania.

Slovenia finally got its name in the headlines last month as one of the aspirants seeking to join NATO. It even beat out the Middle East by getting a visit from the new Washington star, Madeleine Albright. It didn't make it into NATO yet — but should consider that no great loss.

Losing NATO
"It has been exciting," said Ernest Petric, Slovenia's ambassador in Washington. "I started from zero. Imagine six years ago, I had no country. It's a long way."

Serb war criminal appeals sentence

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Judges who jailed a Bosnian Serb war criminal for 20 years for killing and torturing Muslims and Croats failed to recognize his "relative unimportance," lawyers claimed in an appeal of the sentence.

The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal yesterday released a summary of the appeal, filed Saturday by attorneys for Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic.

Tadic was sentenced July 14 to 20 years in prison for taking part in a brutal Serb-led purge of Croats and Muslims in the northwest Bosnian region of Prijedor in 1992.

He has already appealed his conviction. No date has been set for the either conviction or sentence appeal hearings.

According to the sentence appeal, judges "failed to take sufficient account of the relative unimportance of the accused in... Prijedor." Tadic's lawyers want the UN court's five-judge appeal chamber to "reverse or revise" the sentence.

Tadic, widely regarded as a minor player in the Prijedor campaign, had no military rank. But he regularly visited three Serb-run detention camps to beat and torture prisoners. He was also convicted in the slayings of two Muslims.

Tadic was the first suspect convicted and sentenced by the tribunal after a full trial. He was convicted in May, a year after his trial began.

The court has publicly indicted 77 suspects and also has a secret list of suspects. Just 10 are in custody in The Hague.

Two German soldiers kicked out of army for anti-foreigner arson

BONN (AP) — Two German soldiers arrested in an arson attack on a building housing Italian construction workers were discharged from the army yesterday, the Defense Ministry said.

The soldiers, who told police they acted out of hatred of foreigners, are in investigative custody and face arson charges.

No one was inside when the soldiers set the building in Dresden on fire late Friday. They were arrested on Sunday.

Police said the soldiers smeared swastikas on the door of the building before setting it ablaze with gasoline.

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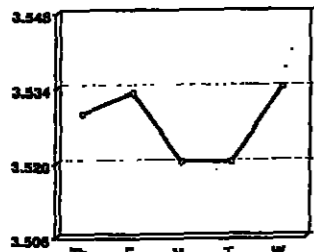
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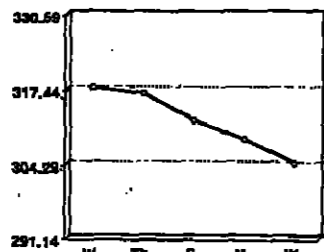
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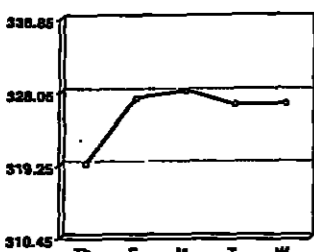


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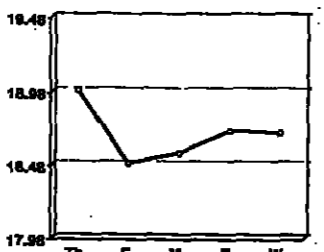
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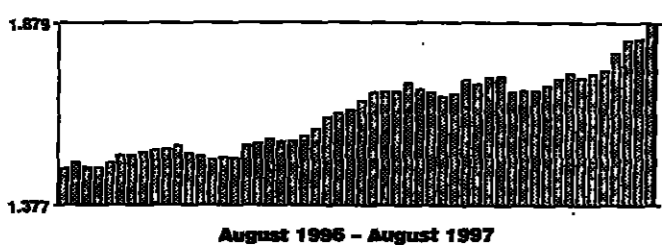


OIL

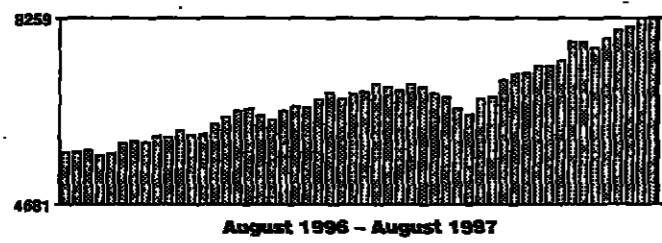
S per barrel of Brent crude



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Heineken puts off Tempo purchase

Dutch beer giant Heineken NV has suspended plans to purchase control of Tempo Beer Industries Ltd. due to the continued standstill in the Middle East peace process.

Merrill Lynch joins IEC flotation

The Israel Electric Corporation announced yesterday that it has appointed Merrill Lynch to join the other managers of its upcoming \$1 billion bond flotation.

Foreign investments in TASE jump

Financial investments by foreign residents in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rose significantly in the first half of 1997 to a net \$300 million, compared with \$342m. for all of 1996.

TASE starts continuous computerized trading

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will begin continuous computerized trading for the first time tomorrow. The issues included in the first phase of the new method are Agis Industries Ltd., Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., Elbit Systems Ltd., Elron Electronic Industries Ltd., Africa-Israel Properties and Investments Ltd.

Arison Group mulls response to Hapoalim delay

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Arison Group will meet later in the week at an unannounced destination to determine its response to MI Holdings' decision to push back the date for completing tender proceedings for the sale of Bank Hapoalim.

On Tuesday, MI Holdings released a statement saying that the two groups bidding for control of the bank have until September 4 to submit their final bids.

The Arison group previously said the government's inability to stand by the original deadline could force the Arison group to rescind its offer.

The groups participating in the tender won't wait forever," an Arison executive said in July. "If the state fails to abide by the timetable for selling Bank Hapoalim, we will reconsider our course of action."

MI Holdings refused to state the reasons for the delay. The delay is not expected to cause the dissolution of the consortium, the spokesperson said. The Arison consortium, led by US-based businessman Ted

Arison, has offered the government approximately NIS 3 billion for a 34.5% stake in Bank Hapoalim, with an option to double its holding. The government controls 75% of Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest financial institution.

The Arison group, which is competing against a group led by US investor Jeffrey Keil and Israeli businessman Eliezer Fishman, completed all of its due-diligence checks, submitted all of the necessary documents to the Bank of Israel and has completed negotiations regarding the final price with MI Holdings, a source close to the deal said.

However, the Keil-Fishman group is still in discussions with MI, the source said.

Ted Arison has a 34% holding in his consortium, while 60% is divided between the Dankner Group, businessman Len Abramson, and entrepreneurs Michael Steinhardt and Charles Schusterman, who are bidding together. The Hyperion fund holds the remaining 6%.

Following a failed attempt to sell Bank Hapoalim, the government issued a new tender in February, offering bidders an opportunity to gain a greater stake in the bank than the previous tender allowed.

Haredi housing project threatens Har Hotzvim plants

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

If the Jerusalem municipality approves the expansion of the Sanhedria residential neighborhood, it will cause insurmountable damage to the city's economy generally, and to the Har Hotzvim industrial park particularly, Gideon Drimer, director of the Jerusalem branch of the Manufacturers Association, said yesterday.

The Ministry of the Interior and the municipality have recently discussed plans to expand the Haredi neighborhood by building an additional 200 housing units about 60 meters from the industrial park.

If the housing is built, 25% of the park's 40 factories will not be able to operate since they will be too close to the neighborhood, Israeli environmental laws require factories that use dangerous materials to be located at least 150 meters from a residential area.

The companies in Har Hotzvim already completed all their papers and received all the approvals they need to build factories, Drimer said. "If Sanhedria is expanded it will be the start of the destruction of the industrial area."

"I understand that there is a shortage of land and that developers want to make money by building housing, but you can't build and then complain that an industrial park that earns so much money for the city is in the way," he said.

Due to Tisha B'Av, the municipality could not be reached for comment.

The Ministry of Interior said that it has no plans to do anything that will affect the industrial park.

"We have absolutely no intention of hurting Har Hotzvim," said Aliza Inbari, a ministry spokeswoman.

Drimer said that there is no way to expand Sanhedria without limiting the park's activities. The park employs 3,500 workers and exports \$720m. annually. Last year \$101m. was invested in the park.

"They are throwing sand in our eyes to say that they can expand Sanhedria without hurting the industrial park," he said.

Some companies now doubt whether they will go ahead with previously approved plans.

More than one year ago, AVX, a high-tech company that manufactures microelectronic components, received a permit to build a \$40m. factory in Har Hotzvim. Now, the company doubts whether it will ever build the plant.

"It took a long time to convince our parent company to build a factory here and a while to get all the necessary permits," said CEO Arie Levin. "Now, everything stands in question."

The factory was expected to employ 1,000 people within five years and to export tens of millions of dollars worth of goods annually, Levine said.



Child labor in India on the increase

Child laborers in India tell their story to a 'Children's Court' yesterday. It is estimated that between 18 million and 55 million Indian children work instead of going to school.

MKs narrowly approve NIS 800m. budget cut

By DAVID HARRIS

Amid angry scenes, the Knesset Finance committee narrowly voted yesterday to reduce the 1997 budget by NIS 800 million.

The count was an uneasy 9 to 8, with only one coalition member, Zvi Hendel of the National Religious Party, voting with the opposition.

The cut went through despite members' objections to an envisaged reduction of NIS 120 million in education spending.

Defying his boss, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled of Tsomet came to meeting to try and persuade

members to vote against. "So sack me," Peled retorted to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer who had threatened to fire him for attending the meeting.



Michael Kleiner

Peled said the cut could foil plans to lengthen school days beginning in September. Hammer also complained to Netanyahu that unless the gov-

ernment provided funds for the

sure the plan would pass. Hendel alleged that the cut to education was irresponsible, but predicted it would be tough to implement.

The Knesset coalition leader, Meir Sheerit of Likud and the committee coalition leader, Michael Kleiner of Gesher, also voiced objections to slashing school funds.

Shas' two MKs on the committee, Nissim Dahan and Yitzhak Cohen, supported the plan after consulting with spiritual leaders, Dahan said.

The cut was the third made in this year's budget, bringing the overall spending reduction to NIS 8 billion.



Moshe Peled

Teva: Antibiotic recalled prior to FDA warning

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. had already recalled batches of its Clindamycin antibiotic when it received a warning letter from the US Food and Drug Administration, a spokesperson from Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. said yesterday in response to wire reports that the FDA told Teva to withdraw batches of its Clindamycin antibiotic.

In a letter dated July 28 and released two days ago, the FDA stated that Teva did not follow proper procedures in manufacturing and testing the antibiotic, which is made in the company's Paterson New Jersey plant.

"Your commitment to recall all distributed lots of Clindamycin HCL 150 mg capsules is acknowledged with this letter," the FDA wrote in its warning.

Teva said an undisclosed

European supplier failed to follow proper FDA procedures for meeting particle-size criteria before it sold raw materials to Teva. The FDA approved the materials before telling Teva to recall the finished product in post-approval inspection.

"We recalled the drugs even before we received the letter," said the spokesperson, adding that the drug in its defective form would be less effective, but not harmful. "There is nothing irregular in what happened. A reporter saw the letter and decided to make an item out of it."

Teva recalled five batches of Clindamycin, whose value totals several tens of thousands of dollars, the spokesperson said.

In the first six months of the year total sales of the product were less than \$2m. The recall will not have a significant effect on earnings, the company said.

Trading of Teva's Nasdaq shares was halted for more than two hours on Tuesday afternoon. The shares closed at \$55.875, down from \$56.125.

Invest in the world's major exchanges with Israel Discount Bank

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep. Rates**
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	3.7000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	3.5340
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	1.9152
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	1.8870
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-	-
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.8.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep. Rates**
U.S. dollar	3.7292	3.7894	-	3.7000
German mark	3.5042	3.5508	3.44	3.62
Pound sterling	1.8834	1.9240	1.88	1.86
French franc	5.5374	5.6288	5.44	5.71
Japanese yen (100)	0.6614	0.5705	0.55	0.58
Dutch florin	1.8377	3.0576	2.95	3.11
Swiss franc	2.3024	2.3338	1.85	1.74
Swedish krona	0.4376	0.4444	0.42	0.46
Norwegian krona	0.4094	0.4638	0.44	0.48
Danish krone	0.4889	0.5250	0.52	0.56
Finnish mark	0.8324	0.8428	0.82	0.86
Canadian dollar	2.6168	2.6572	2.67	2.80
Australian dollar	2.5083	2.5494	2.58	2.69
S. African rand	0.7610	0.7852	0.68	0.77
Belgian franc (10)	0.9188	0.9314	0.93	0.95
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6917	2.7346	2.64	2.69
Italian lire (1000)	1.9288	1.9845	1.90	2.00
Jordanian dinar	4.8425	0.9214	0.98	0.82
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0000	4.88	5.21
ECU	3.7213	3.7814	1.00	1.08
Irish punt	5.0412	5.1228	4.95	5.20
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

(TARD) TARGET OARD Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents Date: 128.97 Purchase Price: 130.07 Redemption Price: 128.17		PRIME מרמית Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents Date: 128.97 Purchase Price: 117.11 Redemption Price: 115.58	
DRIVE CAREFULLY			

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their share prices.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Tel Aviv market slides after Wall Street

Mishtanim 297.67 ▲ -1.70% Maof 304.50 ▼ -1.36%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stocks in Tel Aviv fell yesterday after Israeli companies traded on Wall Street dropped on Monday and Tuesday, led by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which was closed Tuesday for Tisha Beav.

A stronger shekel damps exporters' profits, as exporting companies earn in foreign currency and pay expenses in shekels.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists various international shares.

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Dow falls on jittery bond market

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks whirled to a lower close yesterday as the market fell victim to a jittery bond market, despite news that producer prices in July fell for a record seventh straight month.

European stocks fall as Wall St. rally fails

LONDON (Reuter) - European equity markets ended lower yesterday, after a turbulent afternoon as Wall Street failed to sustain an opening rally despite key US economic data which virtually removed all fears of a near-term rise in US interest rates.

Table with columns: Key Representative Rates. Lists US Dollar, Sterling, Mark rates.

Table with columns: MARKET INDEXES. Lists FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng indices.

Table with columns: DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US). Lists various dollar crossrates.

Table with columns: US COMMODITIES. Lists various US commodities.

Table with columns: LONDON COMMODITIES. Lists various London commodities.

Table with columns: SPOT MARKET METALS (US). Lists various spot market metals.

Table with columns: LONDON METAL FIXES. Lists various London metal fixes.

Table with columns: DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA. Lists various data communication services.

Table with columns: FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA COURTESY OF COMMSTOCK TRADING LTD. Lists various foreign financial data.

Table with columns: LONDON. Lists various London market data.

Table with columns: PARIS. Lists various Paris market data.

Table with columns: FRANKFURT. Lists various Frankfurt market data.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5982819.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Super Pharm, Gilo commercial center, 676-1873; Balsam, Salah e-Uin, 627-2315; Shuafl, Shuafl Road, 581-0106; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

POLICE 100 FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101

Beta

Weekender

Amazing Graceland

Twenty years after his death, the legend of Elvis Presley keeps growing

By WOODY BAIRD

OK, so he ended up strung out on drugs and fat. But Elvis was cool when it counted. Now, 20 years after his death, he still is king. In fact, his place in American pop culture may still be growing — even the new hit movie *Men in Black* includes an Elvis gag, a sly reference to his being, well, somewhere else in the universe.

Think of thousands of Elvis fans will return to Memphis, as they do each August, to mark the anniversary of his death and visit Graceland, the white-columned house Presley lived in most of his career. He died there at age 42 on August 16, 1977.

Graceland gets some 750,000 visitors a year and is the center of the Elvis galaxy.

"It gives the Elvis fans an actual physical space in which to congregate and sort of reinforce a sense of themselves as a community," says Gilbert Rodman, a communications professor at the University of South Florida. "Even at their most extreme, they can feel a sense of normalcy."

For the Graceland pilgrims, Elvis is still remembered as "the absolute model of cool," says Kerol Ann Marling, a professor of American studies at the University of Minnesota and author of *Graceland: Going Home with Elvis*. And Graceland's managers, led by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc., work hard to maintain Presley's image as a courteous country boy who went from rags to riches and always loved his mama.

Hard to find is any mention of the prescription drugs that hastened his death, the shot-out TV sets, eating binges, and other excesses that marked much of his life.

Detractors focused on Elvis's excesses often point to adventures like the famous late-night excursion to Denver aboard his private jet loaded with friends. His mission? To pick up a tray of peanut-butter sandwiches.

At Graceland, such stories take an upbeat twist.

"That becomes characteristic of somebody who was just full of life and fun to be around," Marling says. "It's that kind of adaptation that's kept Elvis going." But no matter how much fun Elvis was, he clearly was no businessman. He spent his money as fast as he got it. When he died, his estate was valued at less than \$5 million, and the Internal Revenue Service had its eye on that.

In 1982, ex-wife Priscilla Presley, the mother of Elvis's only child and heir, Lisa Marie, put together a management team that opened Graceland to public tours



and won exclusive legal rights to his name and image.

Now Elvis is atop a multimillion-dollar enterprise doing business around the globe. Graceland and its sprawling complex of souvenir shops and museums bring in more than \$15m. annually. Not bad, when you consider Elvis bought the place in 1957 for \$100,000.

When Priscilla Presley and Jack Soden, the estate's chief executive, opened Graceland, admission was \$5 a head. Now the deluxe tour runs \$18.50 for adults, and most visitors go home with at least a T-shirt or coffee mug. Many really load up on trinkets — Elvis earrings, dolls, teddy bears, key rings — after visiting the eternal

flame that sits above Presley's grave beside Graceland.

Soden says Elvis and Graceland have become symbols of the 1950s and '60s when pop music was upbeat and fun, and a cool car could strut his stuff. More than 50 percent of Graceland's visitors are under 35, and business is good worldwide.

"It's not just Graceland. It's things bearing the name and likeness of Elvis Presley," Soden says. "It's videotapes of his movies. It's record sales from RCA. Everything on a worldwide basis keeps growing." Now the estate has launched a new venture, a nightclub called Elvis Presley's Memphis. It's on historic Beale Street in downtown Memphis, and

more clubs are planned around the country and abroad.

Whether that venture is successful, as it likely will be, is immaterial, however, to Presley's popularity. His place in pop culture is secure, partly because he can be seen so differently by different people, Rodman says. Elvis took no political stands and spoke little about his views. He didn't write about himself, and he sang other people's music.

"On one hand, he was a macho figure in leather thrashing his pelvis around, and he was also this baby-faced crooner of love ballads to moon-eyed teenage girls. Both worked at the same time," says Rodman, who turned his doctoral

thesis into a book called *Elvis After Elvis: The Posthumous Career of a Living Legend*. That helps explain why, two decades after his death, Elvis commands such devotion. And Graceland, the easily accessible focus of the adoration and wonder, helps keep the popularity growing.

"From the time he bought the place, Graceland and Elvis were inextricably linked," Rodman says. "New York stars are tucked away in brownstones or penthouse apartments, and there's no pedestrian neighborhood in Beverly Hills. You're not going to get huge crowds hanging around the gates of a Park Avenue apartment building," he concludes. (AP)

Incog-neato

By AMY KLEIN

On Thursday nights, the weekend begins not so inconspicuously at Incognito. Twenty-some things, the types you'd find at late-night German Colony coffee shops, are dressed in black and brown, casually leaning against the bamboo bar, with the Old City walls lit up in the background. That and the clear, starry sky overhead in the outdoor section of the party are largely ignored by the crowd — a cocktail-party, gin-and-tonic set which, after midnight, is still sparse. Not to worry.

The summer parties at Incognito, downstairs of Jerusalem's Cinematheque, are known as the best dance parties in Jerusalem. They are brought to you by the same people who run Ha'uman 17 in the winter, and Barabon, the student club at the Hebrew University.

Twenty-three and over is the rule for Thursday night, age ranges to the big 4-0, though it's mostly under 30s. The doors open at 10:30 p.m.; nobody who is anybody shows up before midnight, when the lines slowly begin to snake around the entrance.

Until 1:30 there's '70s and '80s music — "Flashdance," Bee Gees, Joan Jett, etc. Not necessarily great dance music but nostalgia galore. At 1:30 a.m., on the nose, the music changes to the locally popular trance music. That's when the party starts to happen. In the semi-dark, orange sponge-painted room, dancers get three inches of space to grind away. The kitschy-but-fun strobe lights give their surrealistic slow-motion effect (nary a disco ball to be found).

Go outside to get some air. There, aside from the bar and the skyline, it's one big patio, which by about 2 a.m. is also hard to squeeze through. There are about 500 people in all.

Beer at the indoor and outdoor bars is NIS 13, mixed drinks NIS 18, the hardest liquor, NIS 25. No food is served.

Our entertainers for the evening, who are meant to make sure the party is rolling, are Mr. Rourke and Tattoo. No, just kidding. Tonight it's a Jojo-type pair of detectives sporting gold chains, fake guns, wigs, and bottles of tequila. These two guys dress up every week (as Mexicans, women, etc.), weaving through the party, shouting, performing, and giving out free drinks.

If you're a real serious partyer, you'll stay past 3:30 when the music changes to super trance (as if trance weren't enough) until dawn. But you'll have the next night to rest because you can't come back on Friday. No respectable university student would be caught dead there on a Friday night, when Incognito is for soldiers and their friends. The crowd is more rambunctious: midriff-bearing and louder, our nation's protectors let off some steam.

"People say Tel Aviv is the only place for a party," said Assaf, one partygoer who chose to hang out on the patio, "but look at this skyline. Only Jerusalem has this."

Admission to Incognito runs from NIS 25 to NIS 40. Membership, which gives a number of benefits, is available.

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Movies on my mind

Noted lawyer and author Alan Dershowitz talks to Jonathan Tepperman about his favorite — and least favorite — films



Alan Dershowitz is the lawyer who needs little introduction: first, because his high-profile clients (Mia Farrow, Mike Tyson, Leona Helmsly) and best-selling books have vaulted him to international fame; and second, because the aggressive author of *Chutzpah* is apt to introduce himself before you ever get the chance to do it for him.

The Harvard professor has 13 books under his belt and two films: *Reversal of Fortune*, which dramatizes his successful appeal of Claus von Bülow's murder conviction; and *The Advocate's General* (due out this fall), an adaptation of Dershowitz's novel of the same name. When asked to list his favorite movies, he led with the one he hates the most.

LEAST FAVORITE

To *Kill a Mockingbird*
"I hate this movie because it has created a phony expectation, namely that defense lawyers represent innocent people. This is objectionable because, quite simply, they don't. If the maker of that film had had any guts, he would have made the defendant guilty, not innocent. I hate movies about the law which glorify lawyers for doing the right thing. This creates the Perry Mason-ization of the law. In truth, it's easy to defend innocent people — it takes no courage. Defending guilty clients is much more interesting. The question is how you treat the most despised in our society, not how you treat the innocents. The more interesting story would have been: Would Atticus Finch [the lawyer in the film] have defended a black man who was guilty?"

FAVORITE

1. *Reversal of Fortune*. "Obviously. Of course this is my favorite [since it was based on a Dershowitz book and stars Ron Silver as none other than Alan Dershowitz]. But I like it because it was extremely accurate, first of all, and didn't oversimplify the legal issues. And second, it never

said that the defendant [von Bülow] was innocent. At the end of the movie, you're totally uncertain, even though he's been found not guilty."

2. *Crimes and Misdemeanors*

"Instead of simple films with simple portrayals of the law, I like gray areas. So there's *Crimes and Misdemeanors*. Now, I hate Woody Allen. I used to love him, but then I ended up representing Mia Farrow and that changed. But *Crimes and Misdemeanors* is still a great film. I thought the movie was excellent for the gray areas, for how it dealt with the subtle ways in which crime and innocence are interwoven in life. It's the same in *Crime and Punishment*, which is my favorite book. Good and evil are sometimes impossible to distinguish."

3. *Citizen Kane*

"Again, it's obvious, but I love this film. It's a very subtle movie about a complex life in which you cannot distinguish good from the evil in the main character. You can't pass judgment on Charles Foster Kane, the central figure. It's like Shakespeare. This was Shakespeare's genius: He prevents you from separating right from wrong. Hardly any characters in Shakespeare are pure villains, and this is true to life. This is what makes a film great, or a book great, and allows you to read it through the centuries. Great art is like a Rorschach test. It creates an interactive relationship between the artist and the viewer over time."

4. *The Nasty Girl*

"This is a German film about the Holocaust, and I'll tell you, it's a lot better than *Schindler's List*. In *Schindler's List*, things were simple. In *The Nasty Girl* they're not, and again you're left with great difficulty neatly separating good from evil or right from wrong."

Hot tips

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv

THE GENIUSES behind *Toy Story* had better watch their backs. They've got nothing on Ether, the exhibition by this year's graduates of the computer art and multimedia program at Camera Obscura. Walking into the lobby of the Chai Insurance Building (at the corner of Derech Petah Tikva and Rehov Harakevet) is like entering a computer-generated wonderland. Your kids will really love the installation tucked way inside, where they can sound like *Star Wars* R2D2 just by waving their hands near a couple of electrode-laden poles. You'll just stand there agog, wondering where to point-and-click next.

You can take in the Ether, Sundays through Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday nights from 9 to 11:30. And while you're there, remember to dash across Harakevet to the Strigamish

Building to check out work by the school's graduating photographers.

If all those computerized bells and whistles don't move you, it's a safe bet that Gil Lerner's "guest worker" photographs will. Though this work is not digital, it's anything but old-fashioned. Both shows close August 25.

TONIGHT JOAN Dornemann of New York City's Metropolitan Opera leads an evening of International Opera Singers. Some 80 participants lend their voices to the Mozart program of selections from *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. The songs begin at 8 at the Tel Aviv Conservatory of Music.

THE INTRIGUINGLY titled comedy Ben Hur and the Rabbi's Wife plays this weekend at Beit Lessin. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Call (03) 694-1111 for more details.

THE ERETZ Yisrael Museum provides the backdrop for tonight's performance of Matti Golan's Fog. The action centers on the court-martial that follows a fatal army accident. The play starts at 8. Call (03) 643-6888 for more details.

THE ACTOR, star of the around show-off in-you can get some satisfaction tonight at a table open mike at the community center, near Gan Sheinkin. The show starts at 8:30 and there's no

charge to watch — or to perform. Call (03) 528-8827.

TODAY'S THE first of the Thousand Nights evening bazaars in old Jaffa. Call (03) 524-3773 for further details.

Jerusalem

THE WORDS "arts and crafts" to the average person (OK, average American) usually conjure up images of uncooked macaroni, construction paper, glue, and glitter and yarn. But no more. The arts-and-crafts revival is gaining momentum globally. And Jerusalem is no exception, as the city hosts the International Arts and Crafts Fair through August 24.

Exhibits come from such far-flung locales as China, Malawi, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Bolivia. Crafters will be on hand to show you how they do what they do. There will also be plenty of food and live music, not to mention guided tours of all the places you've been meaning to get to but never quite seem to have the time for.

Big-time entertainers appear tonight at 9. Cash-Rock Show and Band or Dregs at 10 p.m. at David's Mitchell Garden (next to David's Tower), the Sultan's Pool and the Khutsot Hayotzer Arts and Crafts Center. For ticket information, call (02) 625-6869, (02) 624-0896 or (03) 604-4725. For tour information, call (02) 620-3466, (02) 620-3461 or (03) 571-2681.

OR IF you prefer your Jerusalem a little more classical, conductor Eli Freud and the Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra might have just what you need. Tonight's Summer Serenade program includes works by Haydn, Handel, Janacek and Mozart. The baton drops at 8:30 on the Notre Dame Center terrace.



AND POINTS Beyond SOME YEARS back, hearing the words "Jewish Whiffenpoof" might have sent your Bubbie to the floor of her Catskill kitchen in a shock-induced fainting spell. But the days of the officially unofficial Ivy League Jewish quota system are long over. And even the once Waspy Yale Whiffenpoofs have a set of sabra lungs adding to their lifting-a-cappella harmonies. The group performs tonight at Haifa's Louis Promenade, just below the Dan Carmel Hotel. The beautiful music starts at 8:30.

THE WHITE Tower in Ramle is the place to be tonight for an all-night music-and-dance happening. The promoters promise, among other things, Indian and Persian dance performances and all kinds of groovy people. Call (03) 620-3078, (03) 629-3856 for more information.



A kosher taste of Turkey

Anyone who keeps kosher has two options when planning a vacation: traveling only to places that have kosher food or adding cans of tuna fish and other easily transportable foods to the bottles of suntan lotion and rolls of film in his suitcase.

The second option is inconvenient, especially when you have a large family, while, in the past, the first option cut out a lot of choice vacation sites. However, the list of locations that can accommodate tourists who keep kosher has been growing. And with the opening of the Elmakent resort, Turkey is now on that list.

Israeli and Turkish businessmen designed this holiday village with Israeli families, especially religious ones, in mind. Situated an hour from Istanbul on the southern coast of the Marmara Sea, Elmakent is an ideal base from which to explore Turkey or to just relax.

Elmakent's expansive beach, two swimming pools, and wide sun decks provide plenty of space to soak up the rays. The extensive sports facilities, which include tennis and basketball courts, soccer fields and a fitness center, should satisfy the more active vacationers.

The resort is composed of two-story villas large enough to comfortably accommodate a family of six. (Some smaller villas are also available.) Each villa comes with a fully equipped kitchen, plus a grill on the back porch. Meats, salads and basic food-

The Elmakent holiday village was designed with Israeli families, especially religious ones, in mind. Heidi J. Gleit samples a different side of Turkey.

stuffs are sold at a deli and small grocery store next to the resort's kosher restaurant.

Elmakent's main restaurant, which is not kosher, overlooks the main pool. A disco is located downstairs so that tourists can dance to music late into the night without disturbing those sleeping in the villas nearby.

In an effort to appeal to families, the Israeli team that planned Elmakent decided not to build a casino or large nightclub on the premises.

The guests can enjoy a Turkish bath, complete with a massage, at the outdoor or indoor pools.

These can be found in the town of Ya-lova, a 15-minute drive from the resort.

Yalova's main attraction, however, is the thermal springs located on its outskirts. A traditional Turkish bathhouse has been built in the garden sur-

rounding the springs. Guests can enjoy a Turkish bath, complete with a massage, at the outdoor or indoor pools.

Several ferries connect Yalova to Istanbul - it takes an hour on the fast seabus and two hours on the slower one. Elmakent organizes day trips to Istanbul and the surrounding areas. Since Istanbul is easily accessible, it might be worth going there on your own and letting the Elmakent staff set up excursions to the Princes'

Islands and Iznik for you.

Istanbul - half in Europe and half in Asia, split by the Bosphorus straits and connected by bridges and ferries - is clearly a must-see on any trip to Turkey. You can spend days and days wandering through its palaces and markets, churches and mosques and museums. But it is worth pulling yourself away and exploring the surrounding countryside as well.

It is full of forests, apple and cherry orchards, interspersed with small villages. Signs of the Islamic political parties' growing influence are evident in the villages; almost all of them

have a brand-new minaret towering over the village's small old mosque.

Like everywhere else in the Mediterranean basin, Turkey has its share of Roman ruins. Iznik, once an important Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and then Ottoman town, and now a small sleepy hamlet on the edge of Lake Iznik, has an abundance of archeological sites. The most impressive are the gates to the wall the Romans built around the city.

Uludag is also worth visiting. A popular ski resort in the winter and spring, it is part of a national park with hiking trails that snake through lush forests. From Uludag, take a cable car down to Bursa, which is built on the lower slopes of Uludag.

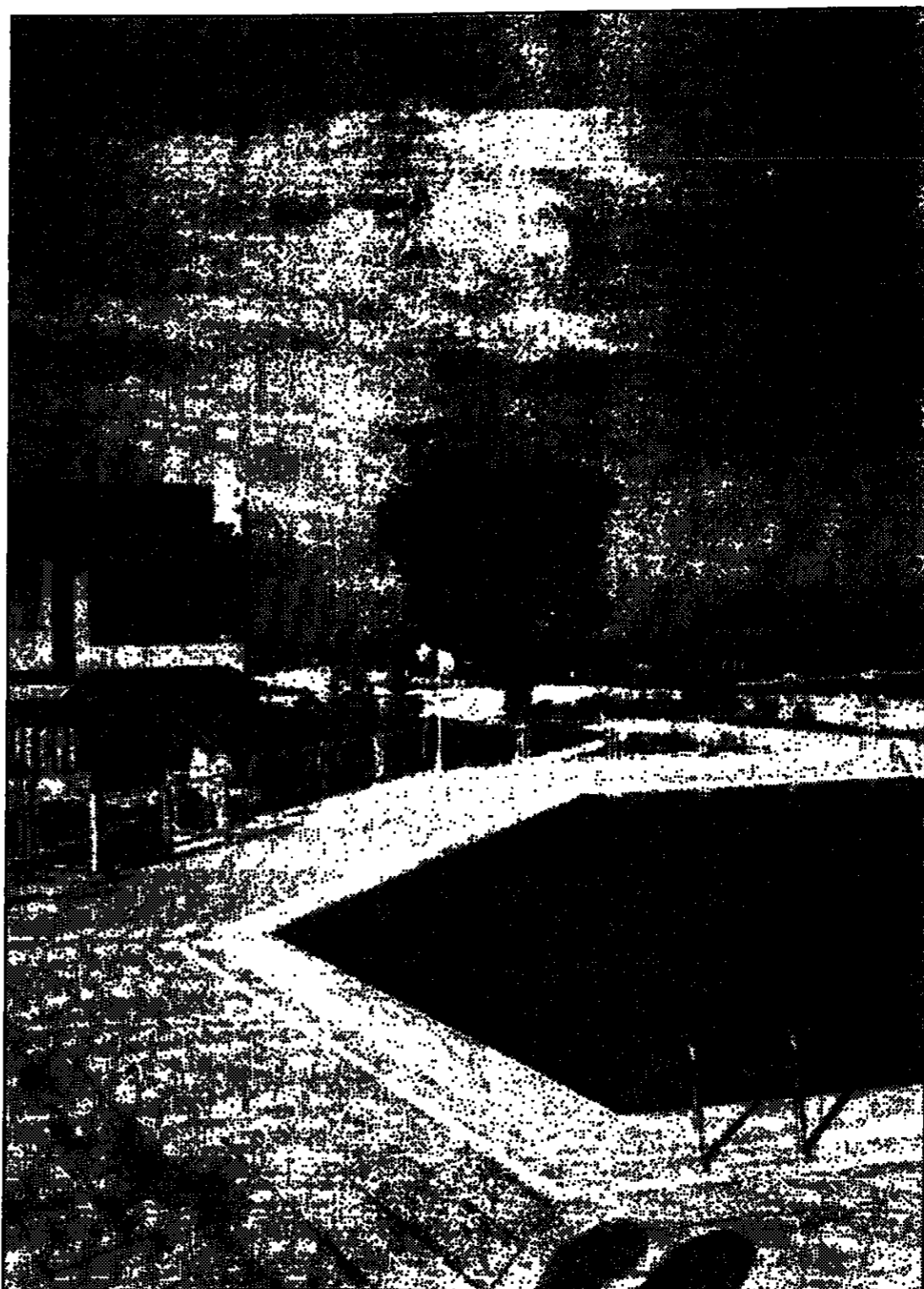
In Bursa, the Ottoman Empire's first capital, impressive Ottoman structures are surrounded by the city's newer buildings. In addition to the mosques and the tombs of the empire's founder, Osman, and his son, Bursa has a huge open market with alley after alley of stores, selling everything from shoes to silk.

When you get tired of traveling by road, you can take a seabus to the Princes' Islands, where the Turks often go for vacation. To get around Buyukada, a quiet beach town which is the largest of the nine islands, you can rent a bike or take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage.

EIGHT-DAY, seven-night package trips to Elmakent are approximately \$500 for adults and \$350 for children, including the flight and half-board. Time-sharing through RCI is also available. Prices for one week a year start at around \$6,000.

For more information, contact Jerusalem Tour Ltd. at (04) 832-4055/6.

The writer was a guest of Elmakent.



Top: The Bosphorus which links Europe with Asia is a must-see on any trip to Turkey. Above: The Elmakent holiday village, an hour from Istanbul, has two-story villas large enough to accommodate a family of six.

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The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. 10% discount when you book all three tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Not Page One
Right or wrong, Right or Left
By Sam Orbaum

You don't read this newspaper because it is (a) a right-wing rag (b) a left-wing rag (c) it's a stupid question because obviously you're reading this newspaper.

Having worked here to these many years, I've heard it all. In any given week, half the people who provide their unsolicited opinions want to know how I could work for such a right-wing paper. The other half want to know how I could work for such a left-wing paper.

After 14 years of hearing this sort of thing, I suspect we might be putting out two editions, each the political opposite of the other, though nobody has ever mentioned this to the staff.

Or maybe everyone's right. Maybe the *Post* is too Left for the righties, too Right for the lefties, which theoretically puts us right smack in the Center. But that's not possible, because in Israel there is no Center.

Anyhoo, I figure it's time to resolve the issue here and now. I asked around the newsroom. Are we Left?

Half the staffers said yes, half

Israelis. Too anti-Palestinian. Better would have been "Israelis remain in Israeli cities."

In the same vein, we could have made the PM look a bit better by rewording the headline "Premier cancels US trip" to "Premier stays home."

"PM: Peace process in danger." If a PM propagandist were an editor here, he might have written that differently: "PM worried about peace process."

"Suha Arafat intervenes in Hebron monastery dispute." Ditto. If we were pro-Palestinian, Suha would have "helped" or "mediated" or "resolved" the dispute. "Intervenes" makes her look like a meddling yente.

"Crisis lingers after Levy, PM meet." Is that anti-Right or what? It would be not untrue to simplify that to "Levy, PM meet."

"Survey: 1/3 of university students try drugs." A classic. Plays right into the hands of Israel-bashers. A truly Zionist headline writer would have rendered that: "2/3 of university students don't try drugs."

Do two negatives make a positive? Not in headline writing. "Gov't: No halt to Har Homa"

Maybe the *Post* is too Left for the righties, too Right for the lefties, which theoretically puts us right smack in the Center.

could have been non-negative as "Progress at Har Homa." On the other hand, we could have been more supportive of the propaganda effort with something like "Gov't provides hope for homeless as once-barren hill flourishes." Never mind that it's too long; if we had to make it fit, we could.

"US, Israel slam Arafat." If this were a Palestinian newspaper, we'd all be in jail for that. (In fact, on the same page as that headline was another: "Journalist Kuttub held in Ramallah prison.") My honorable colleagues on the other side of town would have interpreted that as "President Arafat refuses to kowtow to American, Israeli humiliation."

"Barak still needs Peres" ran a headline under an "Analysis" tag. We can only assume that space constraints, or political sensitivity, prevented the full headline from running: "Barak still needs Peres like a hole in the head."

Anyway, you get the idea. Half of you will see this as proof we're a right-wing rag, half that we're a left-wing rag. Half will continue to read it despite our perceived politics, the other half because of it, and vice versa for people who don't read the paper.

Half the complaints are not unjustified, the other half, justified. That's just the way things are.



Comics creators are climbing the walls with the drop in sales.

A comic gathering

These are strange days in the world of Batman. Spiderman and others who dress in capes and masks to fight crime.

Comics sales in the US have plummeted. Collector stores are closing. A few years back, DC Comics even killed off Superman — and then brought him back to boost sales.

For four days last month, the largest US comics convention, Comic-Con International, drew 35,000 people.

Creators and fans alike pondered the future of the industry.

"Comics as we know them are at a very interesting time in the road," said Will Eisner, creator of "The Spirit," and the man whose trophy, The Will Eisner Award, is the Oscar of the comics field.

"They have ceased to be a novelty as a form, and they are undergoing a tectonic shift from form to content," he said.

New-style comics — look at "Too Much Coffee Man" (a bug-eyed character who meditates on the agony and ecstasy of caffeine) — vie with standards that date back to World War II.

At the convention, muscled Batman imitators shared floor space with adult-themed "bad girl" comics, hocked by scantily clad women with tattoos in places that would make a biker blush.

The target audience is males, 18 to 49.

In recent years, movies have turned to the comics: *Men in Black*, the soon-to-be-released *Spawn*, the *Batman* series. But the latest *Batman* installment did not do as well as expected, and TV's latest version of *Superman*, *Lois and Clark*, recently folded quietly.

Money is at the heart of the problem, some say. When comics became commodities for collectors, the industry suffered.

Yet as traditionalists moan, independent comic producers are blossoming.

Shannon Wheeler of Austin, Texas, walked away from Dark Horse comics to start his "Too Much Coffee Man."

"It's social satire under the guise of slapstick," Wheeler said. "I screw with story structure and leave out saving the universe."

But Eisner said the cape-and-muscles crowd will probably always have an audience.

"Superheroes fill a social need," he said.

THEN AND THERE
Soldiers in defense of the land

THE PARADIGM for the Nahal was, of course, the Palmah, which was the striking force of the Hagana, the underground military organization prior to the establishment of the state. Because the Hagana was illegal, the Palmah volunteers were posted in kibbutzim, mainly those whose members belonged to the Labor movement. Palmahniks were in training part of the week, working the rest of the time with the kibbutz members for their keep. Idealism was natural to them. They helped defend new settlements, protected new "illegal" immigrants, and performed all the dangerous tasks assigned them by national decision-makers.

The Palmah, a symbol of devotion and purity, garnered general respect. But its semi-independent status was abolished by Ben-Gurion because of the political slant it developed under the command of left-wingers.

The Nahal had most of the duties the Palmah had. Nahal settlements sprang up along the borders. Nahal soldiers raised veg-

Stolen moments and mementos in the White House

They were tucked in tissues inside an envelope scanned with the rest of the president's mail: Two silver forks, a knife and a teaspoon, all engraved "The White House." A corporate guest had pocketed the silverware at a power lunch in the West Wing of the White House and foolishly bragged about it back at the office. His boss dressed him down and hastily mailed back the booty.

"He apologized. He said he was embarrassed that his employee had the nerve to remove the silverware," recalls Randy Baum, a White House dining room supervisor for US Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Guests are welcome to souvenir table menus, paper cocktail napkins printed with the great seal, place cards, after-dinner entertainment programs — even photographs of themselves hobnobbing with the president. An estimated 2,600 guests attended formal dinners at the White House last year alone, however, and in such a crowd a few just can't resist the urge to swipe a spoon, snatch a drapery tassel, pocket a tiny plate.

"Although the great majority of guests behave themselves, there's always somebody who just can't leave the White House without taking home a souvenir," Nancy Reagan wrote in her memoirs. "Back in the 1930s, Eleanor Roosevelt had to order new, larger-than-usual bread-and-butter plates because so many of her guests were sneaking the old ones into their pockets and handbags!" The temptation remains. On an overnight stay in the Lincoln Bedroom, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown ventures, "I took everything — everything that had 'White House' on it." Actually, he swiped only some stationery and a photo he took of himself with a disposable camera.

Neel Laurence, press secretary for First Lady Hillary Clinton, insists that theft is not a problem in the Clinton White House. "We haven't had anything taken off the tables during the Clinton Administration... that we're aware of," he said. But not everyone is honest.

In 1990, a former Secret Service officer was convicted of stealing more than \$7,000 in presidential china from a White House pantry, sentenced to three years' probation, and ordered to serve 100 hours of community service.

Once every couple of years, a conscience-stricken guest returns a memento, usually with an anonymous note, said former chief usher Rex Scouten. He joined the White House staff in 1949 and retired in 1986 as chief usher, or manager, of the executive mansion.

"I remember a few notes with 'Sorry, I put this in my pocket, or something like that,' Scouten said. "It would just be in the mail. I think their conscience bothered them."

It's not easy to steal the silverware under the stares of eagle-eyed butlers. "When we set a table, we only put out what was needed," said Eugene Allen, who worked 34 years as a butler and *maitre d'* under seven presidents, Truman to Reagan. And just to be sure, former assistant usher Nelson Pierce added: "The butlers count the flatware as it's picked up off the tables." That's when the gamesmanship begins, Scouten said. "If a fork is missing, a butler returns to the table and makes obvious searching motions. Nine times out of ten, the missing fork or spoon mysteriously reappears."

Presidential families have battled the problem for decades. Some of the worst looting occurred when President Lincoln died, said White House historian William Seal. Visitors took lamps, vases, swatches from the curtains and even picked over the mourning vestments.

"No one was in charge," Seal said. "Mary (Lincoln) was upstairs wailing." (AP)

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Cutting down on traffic

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (second from right) cuts a ribbon to open a new bridge on the Bezek Road at Givat Mordechai over Highway No. 4 (Menachem Begin Boulevard). The highway, slated for completion next June, runs from the city entrance through a valley between Givat Ram and Beit Hakerem. To Olmert's left is Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Masorti movement to petition High Court

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Masorti Movement plans to petition the High Court of Justice in the near future for the right to pray at what it is calling "the holy sites," including the Western Wall.

The movement's Rabbi Andy Sacks said yesterday that as part of its court fight, it would be setting up a Web site where individuals who had participated in mixed davening at the Western Wall in the past can register

their experience. The site, which is expected to be up and running by tomorrow, will be accessible at www.masorti.org. Meanwhile, the movement is pursuing a specific complaint versus the police in the Justice

Ministry's Police Investigations Division regarding alleged police brutality during the removal of Masorti worshippers from the area near the Western Wall where they had congregated on Tisha Be'av eve.

Hanegbi: Speed up 'court bypass bill'

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

A bill that would prevent non-Orthodox Jews from sitting on religious councils should be speeded through the Knesset, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi recommended yesterday. Speaking after last night's cabinet meeting he said the recommendation was supported by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The bill regarding the make-up of religious councils was proposed by the Religious Affairs Ministry. The National Religious Party is demanding that it be passed within two weeks of the start of the Knesset's winter session at the end of October. Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday.

The NRP MKs complained that the status quo had been changed in favor of the non-religious several times recently, but the laws which are part of the coalition agreement have not been passed.

Levy said he does not see the situation as being a crisis at the moment, although it could grow into one if the government does not abide by the coalition agreements.

After a meeting with Netanyahu yesterday afternoon, Shas leader Aryeh Deri said he had been promised the bill would be passed.

It was not clear late last night whether or not Eli Suissa would be returning to the Religious Affairs Ministry, which he relinquished when Netanyahu signed the appointment of Joyce Brenner to the Netanyahu Religious Council Tuesday night.

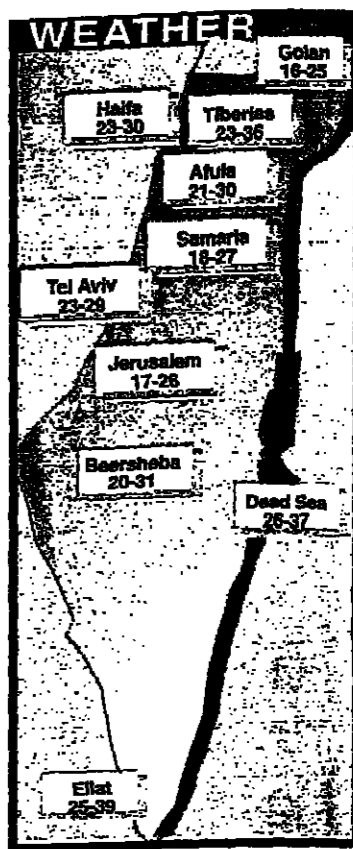
"The prime minister said he would be handing back the ministry to me today or tomorrow," Suissa told a press conference.

Suissa, who is also interior minister, was due to hand over the Religious Affairs Ministry to the NRP's Zevulun Hammer at the end of this month, according to a coalition rotation agreement.

Suissa vowed that "any further attempts to promote the interests of that gang [Meretz] would be met with further 'bypass legislation' by the religious bloc.

He said that all the religious parties, as well as Mokedet's Benny Elon, had put up a united front to oppose any rulings by the High Court that violate their conscience.

"We will all be out of the coalition if the matter is not taken care of," he added. "And we have 23 votes."



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Unseasonably cold.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	C	F	C	F	Notes
Amsterdam	15	59	33	91	clear
Berlin	20	68	30	86	clear
Buenos Aires	19	66	30	86	clear
Calcutta	21	70	30	91	clear
Chicago	17	63	24	75	cloudy
Copenhagen	18	64	26	79	clear
Frankfurt	17	63	31	88	cloudy
Geneva	18	64	31	88	clear
Helsinki	15	59	23	73	clear
Hong Kong	28	82	28	82	clear
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London	19	66	26	79	clear
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Rome	22	72	27	81	clear
Sydney	22	72	21	70	clear
Tokyo	28	82	21	70	clear
Yokohama	19	66	23	73	cloudy
Yverdon	20	68	27	81	clear
Zurich	17	63	27	81	clear

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, seven of diamonds and queen of clubs. In the second drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, eight of hearts, 10 of diamonds and seven of clubs.

In last night's lottery, the winning numbers were 49, 30, 25, 19, 12 and 1. The additional number was 31.

Suissa affair sparks Knesset debate

By LIAT COLLINS

Eli Suissa, who resigned as religious affairs minister this week, rather than sign the document to allow a Reform Jew to sit on the Netanyahu Religious Council, told the Knesset plenum in a debate on the issue yesterday that allowing Dr. Joyce Brenner to take the seat would make a mockery of all those who have died for their religious beliefs.

Suissa condemned the Reform Jews for not requiring circumcision and for tolerating Jewish-Gentile and same-sex marriages. He said the Reform openly violate Shabbat and that their assimilation rate is high.

Suissa said he considered Reform Jews as "those who have been captured," adding that it is a mitzvah to "redeem a Jew from captivity."

Suissa said the majority of the Israeli public does not agree with the Reform Jews, but "unfortunately they have been getting support recently from the High Court."

The end of the debate was marked by an argument from the benches between Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and Shas leader Aryeh Deri, during which Sarid called Deri an "idiot." They were arguing over who had been allowed more time to speak, Suissa or Sarid.

In his motion, Sarid said, "Netanya is just the beginning." "We are completely committed to breaking the Orthodox monopoly... At Mount Sinai there were many Meretz supporters, many

Reform and Conservative [Jews], even more it seems than you, and if it was alright with Moses it will be alright for the Orthodox eventually," Sarid said.

Labor issued a statement criticizing the prime minister's for dismissing the religious affairs minister and signing the necessary document himself without waiting 48 hours for the resignation to come into effect. Labor labeled his actions "contempt of the High Court" and gathered the 30 signatures necessary to hold a special Knesset session on the issue next week.

MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) accused the prime minister of "insisting on expelling 3 million Jews from the Jewish people."

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel stated that he would "boycott the Western Wall" as long as it were treated as an Orthodox synagogue which does not allow for worshippers to hold mixed prayers or pray according to their own traditions and practices.

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said he could not give the Reform legitimization by allowing them to sit on religious councils and he threatened to resign from the coalition if the government let it happen.

His party colleagues, however, did not seem to take Gafni's threat seriously. UTJ leader and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush said although he did not feel comfortable "at the moment we must go with the law which will amend the situation to what it was."

Hanegbi: Direct premier election averted crisis

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The law for direct election of the prime minister helped Premier Binyamin Netanyahu avert a coalition crisis over appointing a Reform woman to a religious council, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday.

Hanegbi helped engineer the maneuver by which Netanyahu signed the appointment of Dr. Joyce Brenner to the Netanyahu council last night, to avoid violating a High Court order after Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa wouldn't sign.

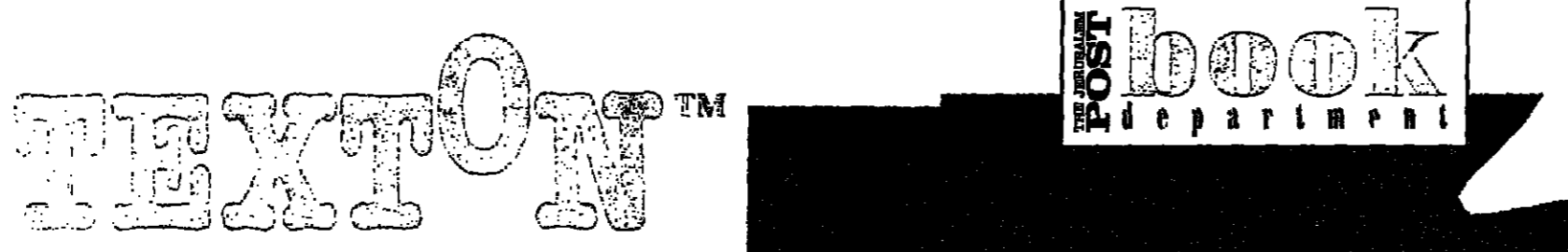
"With one stroke of the pen, Netanyahu became Religious Affairs Minister at midnight (on Tuesday)," Hanegbi said on Israel Radio. "The Prime Minister, who consulted with the Attorney-General, realized that the High Court order had to be carried out -

but he also wanted to avoid a coalition crisis," with Shas.

Hanegbi said that Suissa felt he couldn't sign, and that a solution was found in a clause of the law by which Netanyahu was elected in June 1996, which said that by signing the papers, the prime minister in effect became acting Religious Affairs Minister.

Under the previous law, by which prime ministers weren't elected directly, it took 48 hours for a minister's resignation to take effect, and Netanyahu wouldn't have been able to carry out the Religious Affairs Minister's duty right away, Hanegbi said.

Hanegbi said the government understood the issue was a "matter of conscience" for Suissa. "We had to find a way to prevent a local crisis in Netanya from becoming a national crisis," he said.



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